

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3036

To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to maintain a program that improves wildfire forecasting and detection, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 21, 2021

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to maintain a program that improves wildfire forecasting and detection, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fire Information and
5 Reaction Enhancement Act” or the “FIRE Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WILDFIRE FORECASTING AND DETECTION.**

7 (a) PROGRAM FOR WILDFIRE FORECASTING AND DE-
8 TECTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
2 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
3 in collaboration with such representatives of the
4 United States weather industry and academic enti-
5 ties as the Administrator considers appropriate,
6 shall establish and maintain a program within the
7 Administration to improve wildfire forecasting and
8 detection.

9 (2) GOALS.—The goals of the program estab-
10 lished and maintained under paragraph (1) shall be
11 to develop and extend accurate wildfire forecasts and
12 warnings in order to reduce loss of life, injury, prop-
13 erty, and damage to the economy, with a focus on—

14 (A) improving the prediction of intensifica-
15 tion and spread of wildfires;

16 (B) improving the forecast and commu-
17 nication of smoke dispersion from wildfires;

18 (C) improving information dissemination
19 and risk communication to create more effective
20 watch and warning products; and

21 (D) improving the early detection of
22 wildfires to contain the growth of wildfires and
23 mitigate damages.

24 (3) ELEMENTS.—In order to meet the goals de-
25 scribed in paragraph (2), the Administrator may

1 conduct development, testing, and deployment activi-
2 ties related to—

3 (A) advanced satellite detection products;

4 (B) grid-based assessments and outlooks of
5 fuel moisture and danger levels;

6 (C) coupled atmosphere and fire modeling
7 systems;

8 (D) systems to link long-term weather pre-
9 dictions to achievable land management deci-
10 sions; and

11 (E) improved spatial and temporal resolu-
12 tion observations in high latitudes.

13 (b) PROGRAM FOR WEATHER RESEARCH
14 TESTBEDS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the As-
17 sistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric
18 Research (in this section referred to as the “Assist-
19 ant Administrator”) shall establish a program to
20 create one or more testbeds for weather research, in
21 partnership with industry and academic partners, to
22 develop improved detection of and forecast capabili-
23 ties for wildfire events and the effects of those
24 events.

1 (2) RESOURCES.—In carrying out the program
2 established under paragraph (1), the Assistant Ad-
3 ministrators may not use the resources of the cooper-
4 ative institutes of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
5 pheric Administration in existence as of the date of
6 enactment of this Act for the testbeds described in
7 such paragraph.

8 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 There is authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000
10 for fiscal year 2022 to carry out the program estab-
11 lished under paragraph (1).

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